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Paul F. Curtis

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2603

Ortiz & Lopez  
P O Box 4484  
Albuquerque, NM 87198-4484

7590

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EXAMINER

PRICE, CARL D

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3749

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



## DETAILED ACTION

### Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claims 1-18 directed to an air duct having a thermal solar absorber.

Group II, claims 19-21 directed to a method of sealing adjacent air ducts.

Group III, claims 22-23 directed to a method of joining an array of cells of solar thermal absorber cells.

The inventions listed as Groups **I - III** do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

I. **Claims 1-18** directed to an air duct having a thermal solar absorber. It is considered that the transparent pane and duct upper surface are substantially co-extensive comprises a first "special technical feature".

II. **Claims 19-21** directed to a method of sealing adjacent air ducts. It is considered that moving the ducts vertically to generate a horizontal component of force which compresses strip of resilient material to thereby seal comprises a second special technical feature.

III. **Claims 22-23** directed to a method of joining an array of solar thermal absorber cells. It is considered that overlapping one longitudinal edge of the longitudinal adjacent cell comprises a third special technical feature.

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Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 1 3.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carl D. Price whose telephone number is (571) 272-4880. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday between 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven B. McAllister can be reached on (571) 272-6785. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Carl D. Price/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3749

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